

WSDOT's Environmental Affairs Office and Highways & Local Programs present:

Biological Assessment Preparation Seminar

February 14-15, 2007 (#1302)
Exam: February 16, 2007

Department of Social and Health Services
Office Building 2 (OB2) Auditorium
On the state capitol campus in Olympia
(360) 902-8400

(The phone number above may be used in case of emergency to contact a student in the class.)

Cost: \$50

Time: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Class Size: 100

Instructors: Marion Carey, WSDOT Fish & Wildlife Program Manager; Erin Britton and Sharon Vecht, WSDOT biologists who specialize in ESA; and Julie Hampden, Herrera Environmental Consultants

Target Audience

Consultants: For on-call consultants who write Biological Assessments (BAs) for WSDOT. This seminar and exam are required to be qualified to write BAs for WSDOT.

Local Agencies: Not required for local agencies or consultants who write BAs for FHWA funded projects, but may be of interest to this group.

Information for Local Agencies

WSDOT has implemented new requirements for on-call environmental consultants who prepare Biological Assessments. WSDOT's on-call consultants will be required to complete this course and exam in order to qualify to write BAs for WSDOT projects. In response to this new requirement, WSDOT is offering this seminar.

This new requirement will **not** be mandatory for local agencies that either prepare BAs or hire consultants to prepare BAs for FHWA funded projects. The intent of these new requirements is to achieve greater consistency with the presentation of analysis, formatting, and determining project effects to listed species and designated habitat. Improved consistency has the potential to significantly reduce the number of reviews and comments received during both the Department's review of a local agency BA and the Services' reviews. A reduction in review times yields a significant savings in cost and avoidance in delay to your schedules.

Given the anticipated benefits, we encourage anyone who prepares BAs on FHWA funded projects to take this course. Again, while not required, this opportunity is available to any local agency or consultant who is interested in participating in this seminar

Please note that this seminar is intended only for individuals who actually write BA documents.

Seminar Description

This two-day Qualification seminar will provide guidance for preparing Biological Assessments for WSDOT projects. Topics will include: how to organize a WSDOT BA, what to include in a WSDOT BA, the consultation process, crafting a project description, conservation measures, minimization measures, indirect and cumulative effects, defining action area, making appropriate effect determinations, and how to address stormwater and noise impacts in BAs. WSDOT completed new BA guidelines that will be presented and included in the class materials. While some of the information will be familiar to individuals who prepare BAs on a regular basis, new information will also be provided on the latest



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WSDOT and FHWA policies and procedures associated with the consultation process. The seminar will cover fundamentals as well as more advanced topics to ensure that the biologists who attend are more thoroughly prepared to write BAs for WSDOT projects.

Exam

The exam will be offered February 16, 2007 – 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Local agencies and consultants working for local agencies are not required to take the exam but are encouraged to do so. On-call consultants writing BAs for WSDOT are required to take this exam.

Questions?

Seminar information for local agencies: Brian Hasselbach at hasselb@wsdot.wa.gov, (360) 705-7344.

Seminar information for WSDOT consultants: Alix Berg at berga@wsdot.wa.gov, (360) 705-7485

For registration information: Laurel Gray at GrayL@wsdot.wa.gov, (360) 705-7355.

Seminar Registration

Please register on-line using this link: [On-line Registration Form](http://fmapps.wsdot.wa.gov/tbase_registration/), or key this web address into your browser: http://fmapps.wsdot.wa.gov/tbase_registration/. Fill in your information, select your class from the drop-down menu, then press "Submit." You will receive an e-mail notification with driving directions to the training site when we process your request. If you do not receive this e-mail notification within a day or two, you may not be registered and should contact us by phone.

Please do not prepay, an invoice will be mailed to you after the class. Confirmation letters will be mailed three weeks prior to the class. If you are unable to attend, someone else from your agency may attend in your place. To cancel your registration, or for assistance with registration, e-mail wst2center@wsdot.wa.gov or schmidw@wsdot.wa.gov or phone (360) 705-7386.

Disability accommodations provided upon request.

Washington State Technology Transfer Center's Web Page:

www.wsdot.wa.gov/TA/T2Center/t2hp.htm



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